

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

Pursuant to the Senate Rules, in the absence of the President, the Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Rick Swanson of Stowe.

Senate Resolution Referred

S.R. 10.

Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senators Kitchel, Cummings, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, and Westman,

S.R. 10. Senate resolution relating to reaffirming the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supporting enhanced United States–Taiwan and Vermont–Taiwan bilateral relations.

Whereas, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a vibrant, mutually beneficial bilateral relationship based on our common values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and a free market economy, and the relationship is as strong as it has ever been, and

Whereas, with respect to United States–Taiwan trade, the United States is Taiwan’s second-largest trading partner; Taiwan is the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States; in 2022, the two-way trade in goods between the United States and Taiwan totaled an estimated \$135.56 billion; and Taiwan was the sixth-largest purchaser of American agricultural goods totaling \$4.4 billion, and

Whereas, regarding Vermont–Taiwan trade, in 2022, Taiwan was the second-largest export destination for Vermont goods worth approximately \$465 million, and Vermont imported an estimated \$100 million in goods from Taiwan, and

Whereas, the Government of Taiwan has expressed a desire to reach a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States, which would significantly increase Vermont’s exports to Taiwan, bilateral investment, and jobs in Vermont, and

Whereas, Vermont and Taiwan have enjoyed a long history of productive bilateral relations, including entering into a driver's license reciprocity agreement in 2020 and facilitating people-to-people exchanges between the two jurisdictions, and

Whereas, the Government of Taiwan desires to establish a memorandum of understanding with the State of Vermont to increase educational exchanges and cooperation, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont reaffirms the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supports enhanced United States–Taiwan and Vermont–Taiwan bilateral relations, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Senate of the State of Vermont supports the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Vermont for educational exchanges and cooperation, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, President Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Director-General Jonathan Sun of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, Governor Philip B. Scott, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Thereupon, the President *pro tempore*, in his discretion, treated the joint resolution as a bill and referred it to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 4.

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution recognizing March 31, 2023 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Vermont, expressing support for the transgender rights of all Vermonters, and opposing legislation restricting the rights of transgender Vermonters regardless of their age.

Whereas, in 2009, March 31 was established as International Transgender Day of Visibility to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the transgender community, to raise awareness of the discrimination and potentially fatal violence transgender persons experience, and to recognize the bravery required to live a visibly transgender life, and

Whereas, before the establishment of the State of Vermont, Indigenous two-spirit and transgender individuals existed in many Native American communities, and although many of these traditions were lost or suppressed, they have experienced a revival, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont believes that every resident deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and afforded equal justice and fair access to societal opportunities, and

Whereas, in accordance with 9 V.S.A., chapter 139, discrimination based on gender identity in public accommodation and housing is prohibited, and 21 V.S.A. § 495(a)(1) and (2) prohibit such discrimination with respect to employment, and

Whereas, anti-transgender legislation, which has been introduced and adopted in a number of states, is an attack on the mental health and safety of transgender youth and creates a hostile environment for all children and their families, and

Whereas, in opposing such legislation, the State of Vermont takes a stand in proclaiming our State to be inclusive and to stand with the LGBTQIA2S+ community, as well as to encourage other states to join with Vermont in giving a stronger voice to transgender children and youth, and

Whereas, President Joe Biden recognized the importance of Transgender Day of Visibility with a proclamation issued on March 30, 2023, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 31, 2023 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Vermont, expresses support for the rights of all transgender Vermonters, and opposes legislation restricting the rights of transgender Vermonters regardless of their age, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Outright Vermont, the Pride Center of Vermont, and Out in the Open.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President *pro tempore* under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow.

Bill Introduced

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 145.

By Senator White,

An act relating to the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Bills Referred

House bills of the following title were read the first time and referred:

H. 492.

An act relating to setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate.

To the Committee on Finance.

H. 493.

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

To the Committee on Institutions.

H. 494.

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.

To the Committee on Appropriations.

Bill Passed**S. 25.**

Senate bill of the following title:

An act relating to regulating cosmetic and menstrual products containing certain chemicals and chemical classes and textiles and athletic turf fields containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Was read the third time and passed, on a roll call, Yeas 24, Nays 0.

Senator Lyons having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Bray, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Norris, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Sears, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, White, Williams, Wrenner.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Those Senators absent or not voting were: Baruth (presiding), Brock, Ingalls, Kitchel, Starr, Westman.

Bill Passed

S. 80.

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental conservation subjects.

Bills Passed in Concurrence

House bills of the following titles were severally read the third time and passed in concurrence:

H. 28. An act relating to diversion and expungement.

H. 466. An act relating to technical corrections for the 2023 legislative session.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 148.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

An act relating to raising the age of eligibility to marry.

Message from the House No. 40

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

H. 146. An act relating to amendments to the charter of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District.

H. 271. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Springfield.

H. 418. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the Town of Barre.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Clarkson, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, April 6, 2023.